1. A hardware configuration for implementing general packet radio services over a global system for mobile communications network comprising:

a plurality of electronic boards for providing general packet radio services functionality;

an internal bus for providing communications between the electronic cards and within the configuration; and

an external bus for providing communications with circuits external to the configuration.

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- 2. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein communications over the internal bus are transmitted in compact peripheral component interconnect.
- 3. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 2 wherein the internal bus supports voice services.
 - 4. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 3 wherein the internal bus supports data services.
- 20 5. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 2 wherein the external bus is a asynchronous transfer mode bus.
 - 6. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 5 wherein the external bus is a compact peripheral component interconnect bus.

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7. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 5 wherein the plurality of electronic boards comprises:

at least one single board computer for performing call control and simple network management protocol management.

8. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 7 wherein the plurality of electronic boards comprises:

at least one channel processing card for signal processing.

- 5 9. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 8 wherein the at least one channel processing card performs at least one of voice coding, echo cancellation, and dual tone multi-frequency detection and generation.
- 10. The hardware configuration as recited in claim 8 wherein the at least one channelprocessing card comprises at least one automatic speech recognition card.
 - 11. A general packet radio services support node for supporting general packet radio services over a global system for mobile communications network comprising:
- a single board computer for providing general packet radio services functionality which is required for each call being serviced; and
 - a line card processor for providing general packet radio services functionality which is required for each packet being serviced.
- 12. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 11 wherein the general packet radio services support node functions as a serving general packet radio services support node.
 - 13. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 12 wherein the single board computer supports radio resource management.
 - 14. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 13 wherein the radio resource management comprises cell selection management.
- 15. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 13 wherein the radio resource management comprises call path management.

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- 16. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 13 wherein the radio resource management comprises U_m interface management.
- 5 17. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 12 wherein the single board computer supports authentication.
 - 18. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 12 wherein the single board computer supports mobility management.
 - 19. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 18 wherein the mobility management comprises line management.
- 20. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 18 wherein the mobility management comprises logical link establishment, maintenance and release.
 - 21. The general packet radio services support mode as recited in claim 12 wherein the line card processor supports an encryption function.
- 20. The general packet radio services support mode as recited in claim 12 wherein the line card processor supports a compression function.
 - 23. The general packet radio services support mode as recited in claim 12 wherein the line card processor supports one or more of routing and tunneling functions.
 - 24. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 11 wherein the general packet radio services support node functions as a gateway general packet radio services support node.

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- 25. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 24 wherein the single board computer supports session management functionality.
- 26. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 24 wherein theline card processor supports address translation functionality.
 - 27. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 26 wherein the line card processor supports access control functionality.
- 10 28. The general packet radio services support node as recited in claim 24 wherein the line card processor supports one or more of routing and tunneling functions.
 - 29. A method for implementing general packet radio services over a global system for mobile communications network comprising the steps of:
- providing a general packet radio services support node having first and second computing devices;
 - supporting general packet radio services functionality which is required for each call being serviced from the first computing device; and
- supporting general packet radio services functionality which is required for each packet being serviced from the second computing device.
 - 30. The method as recited in claim 29 wherein the first computing device is a single board computer.
- 25 31. The method as recited in claim 29 wherein the first computing device is a line card processor.

32. The method as recited in claim 29 wherein the step of providing a general packet radio services support node comprises the step of:

providing the general packet radio services support node which functions as a serving general packet radio services support node.

- 33. The method as recited in claim 32 wherein the step of supporting general packet radio services functionality which is required for each call being serviced comprises the step of:
- supporting radio resource management by the first computing device.
 - 34. The method as recited in claim 33 wherein the step of supporting general packet radio services functionality which is required for each packet being serviced comprises the step of:
- supporting at least one of encryption, compression, routing and tunneling functions by the second computing device.
 - 35. The method as recited in claim 29 wherein the step of providing a general packet radio services support node comprises the step of:
- providing the general packet radio services support node which functions as a gateway general packet radio services support node.
 - 36. The method as recited in claim 35 wherein the step of supporting general packet radio services functionality which is required for each call being serviced comprises the step of:

supporting session management by the second computing device.

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- 37. The method as recited in claim 35 wherein the step of supporting general packet radio services functionality which is required for each packet being serviced comprises the step of:
- supporting at least one of address translation, access control, routing and tunneling functionality by the second computing device.